

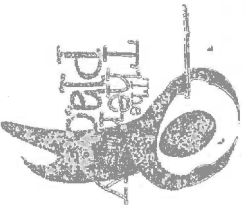
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Lyise</i>	DATE <i>1-5-12</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101256</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Tuck</i> <i>Same as log #254</i> <i>No response needed.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-17-12</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



Innovative Therapies for Kids –
Resources for Families

January 4, 2012

VIA FAX: 255-8235

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2012

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Anthony Keck, Director
SCDHHS
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Mr. Keck:

You may recall that I have written letters to you in the past with concerns about reimbursement rates, the fairness of hospital versus private clinic reimbursement and other issues. You kindly sent Diane Mcleod and Christopher Lykes to visit with us and we received answers to our billing questions but the questions and concerns over Medicaid practices still exist. We continue to have problems and continue to struggle. We are not alone in this issue. It almost feels as if there is a push to exclude private clinics when I believe the law is that every effort should be made to ensure that children have access to care. Currently, we are seeing 70 children for pediatric therapy and have a waiting list of 40+ children.

The most concerning problem recently is the fact that FirstChoice HMO has put us in a contract where they pay only 80% of the Medicaid posted rates. When I called Kaye Steele, local representative for FirstChoice, she informed me that all of the HMO's will be doing that soon and that the state is, in fact, reimbursing therapy incorrectly. She said that FirstChoice has been trying to get Medicaid to change for years. Ms. Steele went on to say that the 1 unit (15 minute) rate of \$23.00, for CPT 97530, Occupational therapy (for example) should be \$23.00 for one hour of therapy. In other words, we are getting paid 4 times the amount that we should be. Her information also included that Medicaid could come back up to 10 years of payments and request their money back.

I don't know if this is true about the amounts being reimbursed but I do believe that by choosing to pay 80%, they are in violation of some law, if not at least jeopardizing the existence of small clinics. The last thing I want to do is draw attention to a problem that results in a reduced rate to us (and even causes others to close as a result of my contact). On the other hand, I can't go on pretending that everything is as it should be and one day have Medicaid come ask us for their 75% back.

Once again, I am asking to meet with you on these issues. Disability Advocacy Day is coming up and I am planning my advocacy efforts. It would be nice to meet with you before then and have some things resolved.

Thanks so much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Darby

Executive Director/Co-Founder
(803)787-3033

CC: Governor Nikki Haley



COLUMBIA SC 292
04 JAN 2012 PM 4 T

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JAN 05 2012

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tony Keck
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Columbia SC 29202

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

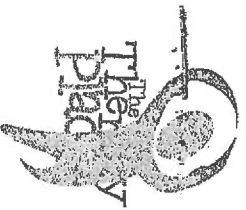
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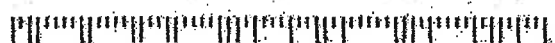
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